

Congresswoman NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

Representing New York's 12th Congressional District
Ranking Democratic Member, House Small Business Committee



Brooklyn Needs Study of Twin Towers Plume Velázquez calls on EPA to examine community health impact



Rescue and recovery workers at the World Trade Center some received protection, but the smoke and dust plume's effect on them and Brooklyn residents remains undetermined. FEMA

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez joined other Brooklyn elected officials to call on the Environmental Protection Agency to expand testing and clean-up programs in Brooklyn.

The announcement followed the release of NASA satellite photos that show the large plume from the collapse and fire of the World Trade Center blowing across large parts of the borough.

"Government agencies have monitored the health of residents and recovery workers at and near Ground Zero," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "The same should have been done for Brooklyn."

Weather records indicate smoke from the fire that burned until mid-December 2001 passed over Brooklyn 80 percent of the time.

Studies of the plume indicate high levels of many toxins, and health care professionals have reported that patients reporting respiratory problems has doubled.

Velázquez Speaks at Small Business Info Day Entrepreneurship encouraged, assisted at all-day forum



Congresswoman Velázquez spoke at the Small Business Information Day last month in Brooklyn.

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez kicked off a free Small Business Information Day for prospective or current small company owners in New York City last month.

Small businesses are critical to the New York City economy. They account for more than half of all jobs in the City and contributed to \$248 billion in sales last year. Their success will be critical to economic recovery after September 11, 2001.

Small Business Information Day brought together many organizations and federal, state and City agencies to provide assistance for small business owners or people considering starting their own company.

As Ranking Democrat on the House Small Business Committee, Congresswoman Velázquez is continually working to boost entrepreneurship and to lower federal burdens on small businesses.

"Small business is big business in New York City," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "And it is the key to the American dream."

Promoting Rights for Housing Residents

Congresswoman Velázquez helps, speaks out for residents in New York

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez joined other elected officials, housing advocates and tenants to testify at the New York City Housing Authority’s (NYCHA) annual public hearing.

NYCHA recently released its 2003 plan and is required by law to hold this public hearing. The plan details NYCHA’s proposals for maintenance and construction projects affecting 800,000 public housing residents. Other issues included rent, work requirements, safety, and job opportunities.

Congresswoman Velázquez is the only New York City Member of the Housing Subcommittee in Congress. She is a staunch advocate of access to safe, affordable housing for all New Yorkers and the preservation of public housing as a viable alternative for the City’s low-income families.



Congresswoman Velázquez spoke out at NYCHA’s annual hearing last month.

Wellness Expo To Target Health in Bushwick Next Month

The Community is invited to attend a preventive health Wellness Expo at I.S. 291 next month, sponsored by the Hadnott Foundation with Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Agenda for Children Tomorrow, and the Coalition for Hispanic Family Services.

The Wellness Expo will provide FREE health screening tests for high blood pressure, diabetes, and

breast cancer.

The Wellness Expo is designed to reach out to residents in Bushwick, Bed-Sty and Brownsville. It will be held Oct. 26, 2002 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at I.S. 291, 231 Palmetto St.

For more information, call Jacki Lugo at (718) 497-6090 ext. 519.

Velázquez Defends Head Start Programs

City often delays federal funding to classes, threatening children

The New York City agency charged with dispersing federal funds for Head Start early education programs is threatening this effective program by delaying payments that cover costs for salaries and renovations.

Congresswoman Velázquez called on the federal Department of Health and Human Services to investigate these delays, which often mean hard-working and dedicated educators are not paid for the task of teaching young children.

Head Start has proven to be an effective tool to reach many young children and to prepare them for a life of learning that is critical to their future.

“The City is not keeping their end of the bargain,” Congresswoman Velázquez said. “Head Start administrators depend on the regular disbursements to make payroll and without it, they are forced to postpone payment indefinitely to hard-working employees. I urge quick investigation of this problem.”



Congresswoman Velázquez talked with children at a Head Start preschool program in Bushwick.

Grants Awarded to Our Community

Polytechnic University.....\$400,000 To develop National Center for E-Commerce	Brooklyn Public Library.....\$250,000 For renovation of cultural facilities
St. Cecelia School.....\$4,249 Funding for “E-Rate” Internet connection	Yeshiva Gedola Ohr Yisroel.....\$27,801 Funding for “E-Rate” Internet connection